

THURSDAY, JUNE 3, 1875.]

[CONFIDENTIAL.]

SELECTIONS
FROM THE
VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS
PUBLISHED IN THE PANJAB,
NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES,
ODDH, AND CENTRAL PROVINCES,

Received up to 22nd May, 1875.

POLITICAL (DOMESTIC).

The *Rohilkhand Akhbar* of the 12th May mentions the late encounter of the police with Randhir Singh's gang, and while commending the action of the Government, calls upon the state to support the widows and orphans of the three policemen who were shot by the outlaws.

The *Aligarh Institute Gazette* of the 14th May has a long article on the benefits of the octroi-tax in municipalities.

A Naini Tal correspondent of the *Lauh-i-Mahfuz* of the same date commends the exertions of the European officers in extinguishing the recent fire, but thinks the sepoy of the Gorkha regiment as well as the police, who came up for assistance on the occasion, scarcely entitled to credit. While those whose property was burning were lamenting the mishap, and the shopkeepers were busy in arranging their things, the rest of the persons who had crowded on the spot on the pretence of assisting took away whatever they could lay their hands upon. The writer is obliged to suppress further details, and hopes the wise will perceive his meaning from these hints.

The *Panjabi Akhbar* of the same date praises the natives of India for being pre-eminently grateful for obligations

received and never forgetting them, as is fully proved by the way in which they perpetuate the memory of European officers who retire from the service or die. The case of Lord Hobart, late Governor of Madras, is an instance in point. Unfortunately, notwithstanding all this loyalty and fidelity, Government treats them with the utmost apathy and indifference, and cares solely for the interests of its own countrymen. For instance, while it has issued a strict prohibition that no European soldier may purchase spirituous liquors from any shop, and punishes those of them who happen to do so ; it has enforced no such rule in behalf of Hindustani sepoy, who are very poorly paid, and to whom the prohibition would be a great boon.

The *Wakil-i-Hindustan* of the same date, in an article contributed by a correspondent, condemns the practice of dissecting human corpses for purposes of a *post mortem* examination as involving great indignity to the dead, and being extremely offensive to the feelings of the relatives of the deceased. A mere report to the police that death has been caused by poison, even without circumstances of strong suspicion, is often the cause of the dead body being subjected to the aforesaid disgrace. What is worse is that even the corpse of women are not exempted from such unseemly treatment.

A correspondent of the *Hindu Prakash* of the same date, writing from Gurdaspur, complains of the disgraceful state of the *kucha* road leading from Dinanagar to Mirthal. The greater part of the road is either covered with water or surrounded with thorns, and is split up into various paths leading different ways, in consequence of which persons travelling on the road are put to great inconvenience.

The writer calls upon the Deputy Commissioner of Gurdaspur to have the road repaired, and asks what use can possibly be made of the district funds if well-frequented roads like this are neglected.

The *Akhbar-i-Anjuman-i-Hind* of the same date, and other local papers, state that cholera is still raging fiercely in some places in Lucknow, and especially so in Mohalla Aliganj, on the other side of the Gumti, where many houses and shops have been entirely depopulated.

The same paper criticizes the long article on the Oudh settlement, which appeared in a recent issue of the *Pioneer*. This lengthy detail of the Oudh settlement from its commencement to its conclusion has ostensibly been published for the information of the Officiating Chief Commissioner, whom the writer believes to be ignorant of the question. This presumption cannot but be ungrounded and absurd. The Hon'ble John Inglis must have fully informed himself beforehand of all particulars of the settlement, and the chances are ten to one that any alterations an officer of his intelligence and experience makes in it will be productive of good consequences both to the Government and the people. The editor goes on to say that the opinion expressed in the article in favour of revoking the proposal for the revision of the settlement, which has been submitted to the Supreme Government by the Officiating Chief Commissioner, and has been supported by other officers, is unsound and fraught with mischief. It is by all means desirable that the revision should be made as far as possible, and that steps should be taken for relieving the misery and distress of those who have been undone by the pressure of the settlement. The course will prove useful in various ways, while, in the first place, the capabilities and the proceeds of the lands will be properly estimated ; in the second place, the unfair dealings of officers will be brought to light. It is for this reason that some persons have been alarmed on hearing of the proposed revision, and are spending their savings in publishing statements against the measure in newspapers. In conclusion, the editor says that the severity of the Oudh settlement, and the distress brought on the people by it, are universally known. In most of the districts, and especially so in Kheri and Hardui,

such a heavy revenue has been fixed that the people have been thoroughly undone and reduced to extreme wretchedness.

The *Murakka-i-Tahzib* of the same date animadverts on the opinion of a correspondent of the *Mufasssilite*, who censures the administration of Sir George Couper and his *locum tenens*, and says that on the appointment of the Hon'ble John Inglis to the Chief Commissionership of Oudh, the public had hoped that the administration of the province would undergo complete change for the better, but that it has been disappointed. According to the writer, the latter officer has made such errors as show that he is in no respect better than his predecessor, and both are sadly wanting in administrative ability. The editor is at a loss to make out what maladministration has been witnessed in the time of the two officers which could justify such remarks. As long as Sir George Couper was Chief Commissioner, he discharged the duties of the office with great ability and prudence; while his successor in office has distinguished himself in a conspicuous way by his good administration and polite manners. Of this the circulars recently passed by him—and among these the one prescribing an annual account of the income and expenditure of each Court of Wards' estate—are a convincing proof. The editor proceeds to discuss at some length the several points noticed by the correspondent of the *Mufasssilite*, and to show that they are all utterly foolish and absurd.

The same paper prefers a complaint of the tedious delay in the publication of the result of the pleaders' examination annually held in the North-Western Provinces. Months pass away before the result is made known to the great disappointment of the candidates, who are all this time kept in harrowing suspense. The editor cannot understand why the examiners, who are paid amply for their trouble out of the fees realized from the candidates, should be so slack in examining the papers. The results of the Calcutta University examinations are published within a few days. The

attention of Sir John Strachey and the Hon'ble Judges of the High Court is invited to this.

The Dera Ismail Khan correspondent of the *Samaya Vinod* of the 15th May asserts that, though the arrangements for the cleanliness of the city are now somewhat better, a new form of oppression has been introduced—*viz.*, a capitation conservancy tax of four pies a month, paid whether the person assessed be at home or temporarily absent, and for all this the municipal sweepers visit each house only once a week. The writer also draws attention to the mischief done to the people by the native surgeons of the city who are barbers by profession, and thinks they should be called upon to furnish a recognizance binding them not to practice as surgeons without previously obtaining a certificate.

The *Oudh Akhbar* of the 16th May and the *Karnama*, in their local news columns, notice the ravages committed by wolves in Lucknow city by night. They are said to abound towards Sikandar Bagh.

The *Benares Akhbar* of the 17th May criticizes the application of the Musalmans of Bengal, praying that the number of their holidays be increased by eight, and those prescribed for the Hindus be proportionately reduced, and the order of the Lieutenant-Governor thereon sanctioning the request. The editor thinks this unfair, and goes on to remark generally on the impropriety of allowing new indulgences to Muham-madans at the expense of the Hindus.

The same paper repeats complaints of the difficulty and inconvenience experienced by the people in cashing their money-orders at money-order offices, because the baboos in charge delay payment on frivolous excuses, and much trouble and waste of time are the consequence. The editor suggests that collectors of all districts should allow money-orders to be cashed up to one hour before the time of the closing of the offices.

In its local news column, the same paper says that violations of the rule by which no person is allowed to take more than one bottle of country liquor from a liquor shop, without a license from the Collector, are frequent in Benares city, as is manifest from the fact that hundreds of bottles are consumed in the festive assemblies held by the Kayasths from time to time for which no license is procured. The attention of the excise officers should be directed to this.

The *Matla-i-Nur* of the 18th May gives an account of the tremendous hailstorm said to have taken place in the Tarai district (Rohilkhand) recently, and the loss caused by it. The storm prevailed in thirty or forty villages of *ilaka* Bhadoi, and caused considerable damage to the crops in all of them. The hailstones are said to be from four to six chataks in weight, to have covered the ground two feet deep, and to have lain three days before melting away.

A correspondent of the *Oudh Akhbar* of the 19th May, writing from Bahraich, says that cholera has subsided in the city, but is still fiercely prevalent in the environs, where in each little village the deaths have been 20 or 25. English medicines are distributed everywhere, but are of no use. It is added that, in consequence of the prevalence of cholera, the annual fair held in Bahraich in honour of Saiad Salar has been prohibited; but that the prohibition was issued too late, so that the shopkeepers who had prepared thousands of rupees worth of things for sale at the fair have suffered a heavy loss. The writer blames the authorities for this.

The *Nur Afshan* of the 20th May, in its local news columns, draws attention to the heavy tax levied from the shopkeepers attending the annual fair recently held in Ludhiana city and passing by the name of the "Illumination Fair," and suggests the desirability of adopting more lenient measures next year.

The *Khair Khaw-i-Alam* of the 20th May reports the prevalence of wolves in Ambala and the mischief done by them.

They haunt the streets and lanes of the city by night and attack passengers.

The same paper estimates the loss caused by the fire which took place in Peshawar city on the 13th May at two crores of rupees. Another fire is said to have broken out in a village in Tahsil Hati Mardan, in which six houses were burnt and the loss of property was nearly Rs. 6,000.

POLITICAL (FOREIGN).

The *Khair Khwah-i-Alam* of the 12th May notices the oppressive behaviour of Anwar Khan, a Risaldar of Sanghana, a town belonging to the Khetri State in the Jaipur territory. He invited the son of Hafiz Khuda Bakhsh Khan to his house on a pretence, and beat him so severely that his life is wholly despaired of. The unfortunate father preferred a complaint, but the thanadar combined with the Risaldar and spoiled the case. An appeal to the Government of Jaipur was equally fruitless. It is added that the subjects of Khetri have been ruined by the oppression of the tahsildars of the state, and are quitting the state.

The *Panjabi Akhbar* of the same date has a long article maintaining that the man who recently laid claim to the Landhaura estate, Saharanpur, and is now in prison, is the veritable Raja Raghbir Singh whose name he assumed.

The *Wakil-i-Hindustan* of the 15th May notices the application of the Ranis and the daughter of Maharaja Malhar Rao to Sir Richard Meade, praying for the restoration of their ornaments, and the refusal of the Resident to comply with the request on the ground that the ornaments were state property. The editor thinks this improper.

The *Rohilkhand Akhbar* of the same date, noticing the recent disturbances in Karipatan (Baroda), remarks that all this is the result of the unjust procedure adopted by Government in the case of Maharaja Malhar Rao, and of its foolish adherence to the opinions of the English members of the

Baroda commission. The editor compares these fair-complexioned Englishmen to golden jars full of poison, fair without and foul within, and says that the pernicious consequences which have resulted from their decision have reversed the well known oriental saying "*Danayan-i-Farang-o-ahmakan-i-Hind.*" (The wise men of England and the fools of India). He adds that before deposing the Gaekwar, Government would have done well to have ascertained whether his subjects were satisfied or dissatisfied with his administration by calling for their votes.

The same paper has an article headed "Loyalty and Patriotism," defining true loyalty as the spirit which prompts such strictures as the above.

The *Meerut Gazette* of the same date, quoting the *Murakka-i-Thazib*, says that whenever Government makes a treaty with any state, or annexes a state, it makes too much use of *ifs* and *buts* in the documents relating to such treaty or annexation. Thus, in the proclamation relating to the deposition of Maharaja Malhar Rao, we read,—“the Maharaja will be permitted to select some place in British India, *which may be approved by the Government of India*, and “she (Her Highness Jamna Bai) may be allowed to adopt some member of the Gaekwar family *whom the Government of India may select.*”

The *Benares Gazette* of the 17th May regrets to state that the prohibition against the sounding of the *sankh* (the conch blown by the Hindus at the time of worshipping their deities), complaints of which have been repeatedly noticed in the *Selections*, continues to be a crying grievance in the state of Rampur (Rohilkhand), and a prolific source of disaffection and discontent among the Hindus. The grievance is specially felt by the people of the villages which have been ceded to the Nawab as a reward for the loyalty displayed by him towards Government during the mutiny of 1857. The editor wonders why Government should thus leave a portion of its loyal subjects at the mercy of the Nawab, and remarks that, unless steps are soon taken to remove the grievance, the conse-

quence of the religious ill-feeling to which it has given rise will some day be very serious.

The *Vritt Dhara* of the same date mentions the breaking out of a terrible fire in Sundrel, the wealthiest village in Pargana Dharmpur (Dhar), and the destruction of seventy-five houses, together with all the grain, stores, and other property in them.

A correspondent of the same paper reports a similar disaster in the territory extending from Nimar and Barwai (Dhar) fifty miles towards the north. According to the detail given by the writer, 211 houses have been burnt in seven parganas. He adds, that last year much distress was brought on the inhabitants of Nimar by the scarcity of rain, and that the present calamity has completed their ruin.

The *Lawrence Gazette* of the 18th May publishes a letter from a correspondent who has recently been on a pilgrimage to Dwarka, in which the writer gives a long detail of the heavy imposts levied from the pilgrims in multifarious shapes in their journey to and from that holy shrine and other sacred places, lying mostly in the Gaekwar's territory and partly in the dominions of the Jam. These taxes are collected by the chaukidars and other persons appointed for the purpose by the rulers of Baroda and Lus Beyla. In the Jam's territory Rs. 100 are levied on each palanquin, Rs. 50 on each elephant, and so on. The writer hopes Government will adopt measures for removing the grievances, especially in so far as they relate to the Gaekwar's territory, which is now under British management.

COMMERCIAL (RAILWAYS).

A correspondent of the *Panjabi Akhbar* of the 15th May invites attention to the behaviour of the stationmaster of the Jallandur railway station. On the night of the 9th May as he was walking his horse in the station compound, and trying to make it go up the telegraph office stairs, a driver of a hack *ikka* happened to pass close by him. The stationmaster flogged

him till he was black and blue all over, rode after him when he tried to escape, and might have killed him had not the Lahore train fortunately come in just then.

EDUCATIONAL.

The *Rohilkhand Akhbar* of the 12th May republishes from the *Behar Bandhir* (Patna) an article headed "The tyranny of district officers over editors of newspapers." The writer begins by saying that every European officer in a district is a despot; all Hindustanis must flatter and adore him, and make a low bow to him wherever they may chance to meet him. If they neglect these observances, their cases, however just they may be, are dismissed by the officer, and they are involved in trouble. The officers esteem themselves scarcely inferior to the Shah of Persia or the Sultan of Turkey, and with the police for their ministerial agents administer excellent justice. They imbrue their hands in the blood of God's poor creatures, and persecute their brethren, simply because their skins are of a different colour. The writer then goes on to describe the fate which newswriters in the mufassil suffer at the hands of the district authorities. If they ever dare publish the abuses or grievances of the district in their newspapers, they immediately receive a *parwana* from the authorities, and are arrested on some charge or other. The *Hindu Patriot* recently described at some length what the police do, and how they act in the mufassil towns, but all in vain. The red-turbaned gentlemen are not to be intimidated by such writings; and if the mufassil newswriters were to publish the grievances the people suffer at their hands, they would be involved in great distress and difficulty. In short, the mufassil towns are, as it were, a hell where liberty and independence are quite unknown.

The *Rohilkhand Akhbar* corroborates the above statement, and remarks that the police and magisterial officers are certainly great obstacles in the way of editors of newspapers, and, in the event of their inserting complaints of their mis-

management or oppression, or any abuses connected with their offices, in their papers, try by all shifts and expedients to have false cases fabricated against them ; and that until Government pass some regulation freeing them from all fear of the district authorities, they can never enjoy true freedom, or be in a position to convey to it full information of all that passes in their districts.

The *Murakka-i-Tahzib* of the 15th May takes notice of a novel work written by Pandit Vishambhar Nath, a famous gentleman of Oudh, and containing the memoirs of Prince Albert, late consort of Her Majesty. The book is entitled *Tuzuk-i-Germany*, and is written in an easy and flowing style.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The *Akhbar-i-Anjuman-i-Panjab* of the 14th May joins its contemporaries in welcoming the approaching visit of the Prince of Wales to India, and remarks that, when it is remembered what cordial sympathy, love, and loyalty towards the royal family were displayed by the people of India on the occasion of the Prince's recent illness, how persons of all creeds and sects among them were at all times busy in praying to the Almighty for His Royal Highness' recovery according to the forms and ceremonies prescribed in their religion, and how on his restoration to health they submitted letters of congratulation to Her Majesty, it will easily be imagined what joy and happiness they will feel on seeing their future sovereign amongst them. Undoubtedly the occasion will be one of extreme gratification to Her Majesty's Indian subjects, the like of which has never been witnessed before.

The editor also notices the various opinions expressed by the English and the Anglo-Indian journals, as to whether the expenses consequent on the Prince's visit should be borne by the Indian or the Home Government. He concurs with the editor of the *London Times* in thinking that such expenses will be an undue burden on the Indian finances and should be

defrayed by the Home Government; and supports his opinion by showing that the profit derived by the British Government and the whole country of Britain from India is so vast that the country should not be saddled with any additional burden. India is a rich mine of gold to England, yielding fresh treasure as often as it is dug. Apart from the imperial revenue, the aggregate value of the trade carried on between England and India is sixty crores of rupees per annum; the Englishmen who come out to serve in India carry one crore of rupees to England every year; one thousand billions of rupees of English capital are invested in the different banks in India, the enormous interest of which annually goes over to England and so on.

In conclusion the editor makes the following suggestions:—

(1) That in every city which may be honoured by the Prince's visit all classes of the people be afforded an opportunity of seeing him.

(2) That royal darbars be held in all famous cities, to which the nobles and gentlemen of the country be admitted, and *khilats* be conferred on all the *darbaris* according to their ranks, and not only a few as was done in the recent viceregal darbar at Delhi.

(3) That alms be distributed to the poor in all cities which may be visited by the Prince.

The following Vernacular newspapers have been examined in this report :—

No.	NAME OF NEWSPAPER.	LANGUAGE.	LOCALITY.	WHEN PUBLISHED.	DATE.	DATE OF RECEIPT.
1	Mihir-i-Darakhshan,	Urdu,	Delhi,	Weekly,	1875. May, 8th	1875. May, 22nd
2	Nasir-ul-Islam,	Ditto,	Ditto,	Tri-monthly,	" 9th	17th
3	Nasir-ul-Akhbar,	Ditto,	Ditto,	Ditto,	" 9th	17th
4	Lam-i-Nur,	Ditto,	Jaunpur,	Weekly,	" 9th	21st
5	Marwar Gazette,	Urdu and Hindi,	Jodhpur,	Ditto,	" 10th	17th
6	Saiyid-ul-Akhbar,	Ditto,	Delhi,	Tri-monthly,	" 10th	17th
7	Anwar-ul-Akhbar,	Urdu,	Lucknow,	Weekly,	" 10th	18th
8	Karnama,	Ditto,	Ditto,	Ditto,	" 10th	18th
9	Sadik-ul-Akhbar,	Ditto,	Bhawalpur,	Ditto,	" 10th	18th
10	Rohilkhand Akhbar,	Ditto,	Moradabad,	Bi-monthly,	" 12th	18th
11	Nasim-i-Jaunpur,	Ditto,	Jaunpur,	Weekly,	" 12th	19th
12	Benares Akhbar,	Hindi,	Benares,	Ditto,	" 13th	17th
13	Akhbar-i-Alam,	Urdu,	Meerut,	Bi-monthly,	" 13th	17th
14	Naiyir-i-Akbar,	Ditto,	Bijnor,	Weekly,	" 13th	18th
15	Nur Afshan,	Ditto,	Ludhiana,	Ditto,	" 13th	18th
16	Aligarh Institute Gazette,	Urdu and English,	Aligarh,	Ditto,	" 14th	18th
17	Laub-i-Mahfuz,	Urdu,	Moradabad,	Ditto,	" 14th	18th
18	Rajputana Social Science Congress Gazette.	Ditto,	Jaipur,	Ditto,	" 14th	18th
19	Akhbar-i-Anjuman-i-Panjab,	Ditto,	Lahore,	Ditto,	14th	18th
20	Muhibb-i-Hind,	Ditto,	Meerut,	Ditto,	" 2nd week	19th
21	Safir-i-Hind,	Ditto,	Delhi,	Bi-monthly,	" 15th	17th
22	Almora Akhbar,	Urdu and Hindi,	Almora,	Ditto,	" 15th	17th
23	Samay Vinod,	Ditto,	Naini Tal,	Ditto,	" 15th	17th
24	Meerut Gazette,	Urdu,	Meerut,	Weekly,	" 15th	17th
25	Koh-i-Nur,	Ditto,	Lahore,	Ditto,	" 15th	18th
26	Atalik-i-Hind,	Ditto,	Ditto,	Ditto,	" 15th	18th
27	Iftikhar-ul-Akhbar,	Ditto,	Delhi,	Tri-weekly,	" 15th	18th

No.	NAMES OF NEWSPAPER.	LANGUAGE.	LOCALITY.	WHEN PUBLISHED.	DATE.	DATE OF RECEIPT.
28	Vakil-i-Hindustan,	Urdu,	Amritsar,	Weekly,	1875. 15th	1875. 19th
29	Hindu Prakash,	Ditto,	Ditto,	Ditto,	May, 15th	May, 19th
30	Panjabi Akhbar,	Ditto,	Lahore,	Ditto,	" 15th	" 20th
31	Rohilkhand Akhbar,	Ditto,	Moradabad,	Ditto,	" 15th	" 20th
32	Murakka-i-Tahzeib,	Ditto,	Lucknow,	Bi-monthly,	" 15th	" 20th
33	Akhbar-i-Anjuman-i-Hind,	Ditto,	Ditto,	Weekly,	" 15th	" 20th
34	Oudh Akhbar,	Ditto,	Ditto,	Bi-weekly,	" 16th	17th
35	Urdu Akhbar,	Ditto,	Delhi,	Weekly,	" 16th	19th
36	Jalwa-i-Tur,	Ditto,	Meerut,	Ditto,	" 16th	19th
37	Akmal-ul-Akhbar,	Ditto,	Delhi,	Ditto,	" 16th	20th
38	Rifah-i-Am,	Ditto,	Sialkote,	Ditto,	" 16th	21st
39	Khair Khwah-i-Panjab,	Ditto,	Gujranwala,	Ditto,	" 16th	21st
40	Najm-ul-Akhbar,	Ditto,	Meerut,	Ditto,	" 16th	21st
41	Sadadarsha,	Anglo-Hindi,	Delhi,	Ditto,	" 17th	18th
42	Dabdaba-i-Sikandari,	Urdu,	Rampur,	Ditto,	" 17th	19th
43	Vritt Dhara,	Marathi,	Dhar,	Ditto,	" 17th	20th
44	Patiala Akhbar,	Urdu,	Patiala,	Ditto,	" 17th	21st
45	Benares Gazette,	Ditto,	Benares,	Ditto,	" 17th	21st
46	Sadik-ul-Akhbar,	Ditto,	Bhawalpur,	Ditto,	" 17th	22nd
47	Naf-ul-Azim,	Arabic,	Lahore,	Ditto,	" 18th	20th
48	Matla-i-Nur,	Urdu,	Cawnpore,	Ditto,	" 18th	20th
49	Shola-i-Tur,	Ditto,	Ditto,	Ditto,	" 18th	20th
50	Lawrence Gazette,	Ditto,	Meerut,	Ditto,	" 18th	22nd
51	Oudh Akhbar,	Ditto,	Lucknow,	Tri-weekly,	" 19th	20th
52	Khair Khwah-i-Alam,	Ditto,	Delhi,	Weekly,	" 19th	22nd
53	Nur Afshan,	Ditto,	Ludhiana,	Ditto,	" 20th	22nd
54	Oudh Akhbar,	Ditto,	Lucknow,	Tri-weekly,	" 21st	22nd
55	Urdu Delhi Gazette,	Ditto,	Agra,	Weekly,	" 22nd	22nd

ALLAHABAD: }
The 29th May, 1875.

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